

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 3325 - HB 3953**

March 16, 2006

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Enacts a volunteer pilot project known as the *Sorry Works! Program* under the Medical Malpractice Remedies and Proceedings statutes where participating hospitals and health care practitioners acknowledge and apologize for mistakes in patient care, offer fair settlement to those patients, and establish a seven member Sorry Works Committee to develop and implement the program.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

##### **Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant**

**Other Fiscal Impact – If malpractice premium rates are reduced, the TennCare program and the state health insurance plan could experience more moderate cost increases in the long term. If malpractice awards were decreased, some persons in need of medical care could become eligible for TennCare.**

Assumption:

- Some increase in state expenditures, which is estimated to be not significant, for the Departments of Health and Commerce and Insurance for their participation on the Sorry Works Committee.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director